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IN·PORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. XX VOLUME 17

For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

■ **TRAINING:** Fire service practises auto-extraction and firefighter searches

Honing their skills

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE

— Unable to see anything at all, two firefighters had to move around a pitch black warehouse to find a downed colleague on Saturday morning.

Once the firefighter was found, two more entered the former Robin Hood Multifoods building — now owned by Riverland Agriculture Ltd. — to help the first team extricate their colleague.

The downed firefighter was a rescue dummy, and

the search for a downed firefighter was just an exercise. But the techniques used by Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services on the weekend would be the same if it were a real emergency.

Capt. Wayne Benner said the four-hour training session involved large area search techniques for lost firefighters.

"We're losing firefighters in big facilities ... it's not that firefighters are being over aggressive, these things happen."

Benner said 20 firefighters, both volunteers and professional, were taking part in the

training. For some, the training wasn't new, it was more of a review of the techniques, to keep their skills sharp.

With the training, firefighters entered the building in their full bunker gear, complete with SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus). The masks on the SCBA were covered completely to simulate conditions of a smoke-filled building.

A rope system is used and all firefighters are clipped onto it so they can find their way back out and not get lost themselves.

see **TRAINING** | page 2



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services firefighters practise large area search techniques at the former Robin Hood Multifoods on Saturday. The training is to help find firefighters lost inside large structures.

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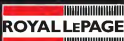
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■ TRAINING

Firefighters also practise auto-extrication techniques

FROM PAGE 1

"The guys have to self-orient themselves in the building in the smoke and locate a downed firefighter. Once they find him, they have to package him and get him ready for extrication. A second team is sent in to help the first one remove the person."

Benner said whenever firefighters need to practise various techniques, Riverland has always stepped up and offered its facility for use.

While one group of firefighters was crawling around the Riverland warehouse, another was tearing doors and roofs off cars over at Simmons Auto Body.

Capt. Joe Henry said auto-extrication techniques were being practised and firefighters were honing their skills.

"Auto-extrication calls are technical calls that require finesse. Firefighters have to know the weak and strong points of a car, what to cut and what not to cut."

Henry said Simmons allows the fire service to use its yard and wrecked vehicles to practise auto-extrication throughout the year.

"We practise different methods ... some are our go-to methods, but we're letting the guys use the different to see what they can do and see what their limitations are."

Tools like cutters, spreaders, rams and others were used to do single and double door removal, and roof removal from a small four-door Chevrolet Cavalier.

Henry said removing doors, or a roof, is all about allowing firefighters and paramedics quicker and easier access to patients trapped inside vehicles.

With today's cars and all of the new safety features though, he said firefighters have to be careful.

"There are airbags and seatbelt pretensioners to deal with. On one of the newer Mercedes models, there are 27 airbags in the car. Those bags could go off at anytime, if they are not already deployed. We have to be careful or we could hurt ourselves or the patient."



Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services firefighters practise large area search techniques at the former Robin Hood Multifoods on Saturday. The training is to help find firefighters lost inside large structures.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services firefighter Jesse Chamberlain uses a cutter during auto-extrication training on Saturday.

■ TOURS

Royal Canadian Navy visits Port Colborne

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Master seaman Robert Hector, weapons engineer aboard the H.M.C.S. Glace Bay, has served in the Canadian Forces for 11 years.

He's sailed as far north as Greenland patrolling the coasts and assisting in rescue missions and he's gone as far south as Columbia working with NATO countries on drug enforcement missions.

The Glace Bay was docked in the Welland Canal in Port Colborne last weekend on West St., near Sugarloaf St., where crew members gave tours on Saturday of the ship's bridge, navigation systems, guns and told visitors about the ship's uses and history.

"We really enjoy doing these tours in and around the Great Lakes because it gives people who live inland an opportunity to see us and see that the Navy is here performing a valuable service to the country. We don't often have a large presence here, whereas people who live in Vancouver or Halifax see us all the time," Hector said.

More than 500 people took advantage of the tours.

The Royal Canadian Navy Kingston-class coastal defense vessel is home to more than 30 crewmen who spend months at a time away from the ship's home port in Halifax.

The ship is used for sovereignty patrols of coastal waters, drug operations, minesweeping during war-



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo
The H.M.C.S. Glace Bay, a Royal Canadian Naval warship, was docked in Port Colborne and crewmen gave tours to more than 500 people on Saturday.

time and also takes department of fisheries officers out to do patrols on the Grand Banks in the Atlantic Ocean and more.

Ken Moss brought his stepdaughter Fayth Fidler to tour the ship because neither of them had been aboard a

Royal Canadian Navy vessel and thought it was a good opportunity to learn more about them.

"It was actually pretty amazing to see how they steer the ship from side to side, the guns, communications — it was all pretty amazing," he

said. One of Hector's responsibilities aboard the ship is to act as a rescue swimmer for man overboard simulations or situations. Sailors generally use the Zodiac for rescue operations, but if the crane or Zodiac are not working

Hector has to jump in the water.

During a drill, he said, Oscar, the ship's dummy, was thrown overboard and the crew had to find him, but fog rolled in and the ships smoke signals marking where Oscar should be were fogged out.

"It took hours to find him," he said. "We eventually did, but it really puts things into perspective for you."

victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca

Twitter: @VtzezyG

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■ ourview

Just secede?

Back in the spring of 2010, Bill Murdoch, then the MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, suggested that Toronto should be hived off from Ontario to become Canada's 11th province.

Murdoch, now retired to his beef farm and radio talk show, was on the right track, but his approach might have been a bit off.

It should be rural Ontario seceding to form its own province, leaving Toronto and the like to their own devices.

The reasons for secession are as varied as the people living outside the Big Smoke.

Chief among them would be to get away from Queen's Park and the provincial government. This same rationale is behind a secession movement in northeast Colorado.

CBS reports that 10 counties have been talking about forming the 51st state.

Such a state would be called North Colorado and organizers say their interests are not being represented at the state capital.

The chance of secession actually going forward in Colorado is between nil and zero.

However, the discussions illustrate the frustration rural residents feel.

The situation is even worse in Ontario. Not only is the voice of rural Ontario muted at Queen's Park, the Liberal government has gone out of its way to do right and lasting damage to agriculture outside the city limits.

Take, for example, the talks going on right now to find hope for the failing racehorse industry across the province.

Larger tracks have some hope of surviving under a new plan, but smaller tracks, the feeder system that assumes a future for high-quality racing, so far aren't receiving much, if any, attention.

Here's where the sulky wheels hit the dust. This issue is not about being ignored by government as in Colorado.

The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. (OLG) created the horse race problem with the full support of the provincial government.

OLG unilaterally decided to cancel a long-standing slot machine deal with Ontario's tracks in favour of changing the landscape of gambling in Ontario.

In other words, the province prefers to share gaming revenues with a U.S. business rather than with horse owners and associated businesses and employees, most of which are in rural Ontario.

Not only has this stupidity cost jobs and rural businesses, it's anybody's guess how many horses and their foals have been euthanized because of a bleak future for racing.

If the residents of rural Ontario have a bill of grievances, rural Ontario has a mountain.

Without drastic measures, the future of rural Ontario is that of a playground and poor-cousin producer of food and power for the legends-in-their-own-mind crowd from Queen's Park.

jmerriam@bmts.com

Don't be stupid

REV. GORD ABRAMAH
Port Colborne Baptist Church

We are, whether we accept it or not, overwhelmed by information. Much of it trivial, much stupid, while the majority of it useless data that takes our time and energy while contributing nothing to a proper way of living.

Having just read an online blog by Charles Stone, I read his quotation of other authors saying, "In today's world we're bombarded with information overload."

One author coined this problem "Infobesity" (Pearrow, 2012) to describe this data overload. When we get too much data our thinking brain shuts down to new information. British psychologist Dr. David Lewis coined a term to describe what happens from Infobesity as "Information Fatigue Syndrome." Symptoms include burnout, a compulsion to constantly check email or the web, (I would add texting and Twitter) poor concentration, hostility (Elwatt, 2013), and anxiety caused by

over stimulating our brain's emotional centers."

Where do we go to find information and knowledge that, instead of wasting time, gives guidance and "wisdom" for a right way of living?

Where do we find the right guidance so we don't waste our lives on trivia and stupidity?

Recently I talked to a friend who asked God to make him wiser in his life and he was impressed to begin to read the Book of Proverbs in the Bible, which he has been doing daily for over 2 years. I have begun to do the same and am amazed at the practical directions and life corrections received from these ancient words.

A Proverb is an ancient form of teaching that uses short, pointed statements that warn, teach, guide or correct our lives. Who doesn't need that?

The Book of Proverbs states it's Purpose at the beginning. "Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of

the wise, their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair. These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young" (Proverbs 1:2-4).

Among the many definitions of Wisdom we could say it is, "the ability to apply knowledge to life" or better yet "directives for living" (Proverbs 1:7).

Combined with it's Purpose is the theme, "Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline" (Prov 1:7). Fearing God is out of style today, but if I read this right, it is the only pathway to wisdom and the starting place for leaving my stupidity behind.

Join me, on this summer time journey, in gaining wisdom (I sure need it) and if you want a Bible to read these Proverbs, contact me.

Join us at our church, each Sunday morning, as we gather together to sing, worship and discuss this book of wisdom, the wisdom from Solomon, The Book of Proverbs.

■ readers' views

Forward thinkers on turbines

My wife and I recently decided to take advantage of a beautiful summer day and take a ride to Port Dover. We have not travelled along our usual route on Rainham Rd. between Dunnville and Nanticoke since last summer, and were quite surprised to see the changes that have taken place in that area.

Shortly after passing through Sweet's Corner, I noticed something white and shiny on the horizon. As we got closer we realized that it was one of many wind turbine towers being built in the area, and what a site it was - these magnificent, pristine white structures standing above the treeline.

Although they are still in the construction stage, they are an impressive sight, and one can only imagine the beauty of them all revolving slowly, and in unison in the gentle Lake Erie breeze when they are commissioned.

It brought to mind something that my sister who lives in Calgary, once told me, that upon seeing a wind farm of 100 or more turbines in rural Alberta, it looked like a well choreographed ballet.

As I travelled among them I couldn't help but be somewhat jealous of the citizens of Haldimand-

Norfolk County, knowing that because of their forward thinking they will soon be the beneficiaries of affordable, renewable, environmentally clean electricity, generated by wind and solar power, as opposed to the citizens of Niagara who will still be relying on an ever increasing demand for electricity, generated by an ever decreasing supply of water from Niagara Falls, a tourist attraction whose beauty will soon be just a memory, as most of the water will be re-routed to the generating stations to supply hydro-electric power to an area stuck in the 19th century.

I keep reading articles and letters to the editor stating that the residents of Wainfleet and West Lincoln don't want these Wind Turbines, but I'm wondering what percentage of the population is in opposition as compared to those who do want them or those who even care.

I have yet to run across anyone who has any opinion one way or the other. Maybe there should be an official house-to-house survey done before more money is wasted on a losing battle, trying to appease a small group of activists.

Jim Bray
Port Colborne

Get a grip

It's not even municipal election time yet, but I have seen hens

scratching in the dirt politically and cheeping at Port Colborne city hall because "how dare they pick now to do construction at H.

H. Knoll Park," when their adorable and darling children and grandchildren will be inconvenienced. The splash pad may be affected and it's so-o-o-o-o-o hot.

Surely ladies, boomer gramma, spoiled gen-x'er or millennial num-num, you can't be that entitled and shallow as most of the water will be re-routed to the generating stations to supply hydro-electric power to an area stuck in the 19th century.

No other alternatives? Go the beach. Go to other parks. Swim in those infant-able pools, or better yet bring your friends with pools to let your adorable children swim there.

Or like my mother used to do, stick me in the tub, put the shower on and tell me to sing in the rain.

Just makes me shake my head at the shallowness and selfishness of some people in this town, ever ready to carp at city hall so they can make their "political" message even before legal campaigning begins.

Get a grip ladies. It ain't all about you and yours.

Liz Seger
Port Colborne

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■ **AGING:** Government must help low-income earners keep their dignity, Jack O'Neil says

Seniors reusing incontinence products

VICTORIA GRAY
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Jack O'Neil is disgusted that low-income seniors are forced to put their dignity aside to feed themselves.

The longtime seniors advocate says some seniors on fixed incomes in Port Colborne have to choose between buying groceries or incontinence products.

"Depending on the level of incontinence, people can spend more than \$150 a month on these things," he said.

"I know some people try to use them again or even wash them. It's not healthy."

O'Neil met with Welland

MPP Cindy Forster Monday morning to deliver a petition with more than 1,300 signatures from residents of Port Colborne and doctors from across Ontario calling for government funding for incontinence products for low-income seniors.

"I think it's an important issue," Forster said. "Seniors don't have enough money to live on. Many live below the poverty line as singles and even couples. This is another example of the need for supports for low-income seniors."

She intends to bring the petition to Queen's Park when the Ontario legislature resumes Sept. 9. Health Minister Deb Matthews will

have 24 sessional days, or six weeks, to respond in writing. Forster, a former nurse, said trying to reuse incontinence products or leaving the same pair on for extended periods can lead to rashes, bladder infections, skin breakdowns and serious skin infections.

Roseanne Western, administrator at Niagara Region's Gilmore Lodge seniors home in Fort Erie, said in a phone interview that almost 90% of seniors living in regional senior care facilities have incontinence issues. "It's just something that happens as we age," she said. "We experience a loss of muscle tone, so (people) lose a lot of control of bowel

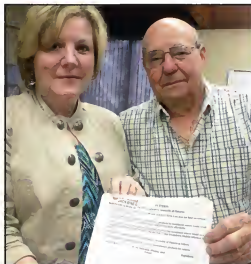
and bladder functions. Those muscles are not as strong or working as well (as they used to)."

She said the region's homes receive funding for the products, but she empathizes with seniors who have to buy their own.

"It's definitely an issue," she said. "They are expensive and it's quite a cost for them."

At Shoppers Drug Mart on Niagara St. in Welland a package of 16 Depends Undergarments cost \$23.99. The brands Max Protection undergarments are the same price, but come with 10 in a package.

O'Neil has collected donations from pharmacies, grocery stores and families



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Welland MPP Cindy Forster receives from longtime seniors advocate Jack O'Neil a petition with 1,300 signatures urging the provincial government to subsidize incontinence products for low-income seniors.

who no longer need incontinence products and distributed them to those in need for more than 10 years. Donations have fizzled out

but the need continues to grow. To donate contact O'Neil at 905-835-1731.

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Fireworks big draw at Canal Days

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Mayor Vance Badawey is looking forward to the hustle and bustle brought by Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival.

The mayor will be taking in the sights, tastes and sounds of Canal Days from Aug. 2 to Aug. 5. It's during this first week in August that hundreds of thousands of people will descend on city streets for fun and excitement.

Badawey spent in front of sponsors' last week at Sugarloaf Marina to unveil this year's events planned for the festival.

The event is an important one in the region because it draws tourism to the community and brings many people to the city, he said.

What he is looking forward to most, he said is the tradition of the fireworks display which will be held on Aug. 4 just over the Welland Canal on West St.

"It's the fireworks where you see most of the people come out together."

Badawey often takes in the fireworks display while sitting in a boat on the canal.

CANAL DAYS EVENTS

Daily
Midway Rides and Games at Princess St., starting at 10 a.m.
Friday, Aug. 2
Water Pistol Bash at H.H. Knoll Park, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 3
Children's Area at Seaway Park, Saturday to Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Roseleaf Garden Swing at 296 Fielden Ave., 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Canal Days 5k Run, H.H. Knoll Park, 8 a.m., Kids Fun Run, 8:15 a.m., Adult start Sunday, Aug. 4

Boat Parade of Lights at Sugarloaf Sailing Club
Fireworks Spectacular at West St., 10 p.m.

The view from the canal is spectacular, but Badawey said it's not just the fireworks he's looking at. He's usually watching the thousands of peoples' smiles and the excitement in their eyes.

Tens of thousands of people gather by the canal to find their spot for the fireworks, some pack picnics and some people wait for hours to catch a glimpse of the explosive display of colour in the

night sky.

The four-day festival — celebrating its 35th anniversary this year — features a host of activities, ships, food and live music that is expected to attract more than 300,000 visitors from the Niagara region, the greater Toronto area and the U.S., Badawey said.

One of the new editions to the festival this year is the Water Pistol Bash planned for H.H. Knoll Park on Aug. 2, said City of Port Colborne events coordinator Allaina Kane.

In exchange for a donation of non-perishable food items to Port Carleton, people will be given a chance to participate in the epic water pistol event to help break a Guinness World Record.

"We need about 3,800 people to participate to break the record for the largest water pistol event and we're hoping for 4,000."

Kane said other new activities this year include the Ultimate Air Dogs, Canada's first and only Canadian-owned and operating dock jumping organization that produces family friendly shows.

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**THURSDAY
JULY 11****SUMMER ARCHITECTURE**

walk hosted by Welland Historical Museum. Advance registration is required. Call 905-732-2215 for details.

**FRIDAY
JULY 12****KITTY ADOPTION**

and cat food drive and bake sale, today and July 13 and 14, Fonthill Pet Valu, Fonthill Shopping Centre. Call 905-892-5443 for store hours. Lots of great cats and kittens to choose from. Presented by NSNAP (Niagara Spay Neuter

Assistance Program) + NPFFN (Niagara Pet Fosters Network). Contact: nsnap@cogeco.ca or call 289-897-8514.

GAME PALOOZA!

at Wainfleet Township Public Library from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Children and teens are invited to drop-in to play Nintendo Wii and board games.

**SATURDAY
JULY 13****FAMILY PICNIC**

at the Hungarian Hall, 361 Hellem Ave., Welland, noon. Lots of food, fun, games and music for all ages. For more information please call

Anna at 905-735-0959 or Klara at 905-732-5865.

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of meditations for stress relief and focus, at Pelham Public Library 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Great for beginners and people who have meditated before. Bring a pen and

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see LAKESHORE | page 8

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■ ALONG THE LAKESHORE

FROM PAGE 7

**MONDAY
JULY 15****ART CAMP WEEK**

Port Colborne Art Club is sponsoring the week ending July 15. Morning classes are open to 16 students aged 7 to 12. Cartooning, drawing as well as painting with watercolours and acrylics will be taught. All sup-

plies will be provided. Location: Upstairs at Bethel Community Centre at 2703 Chippawa Rd. Port Colborne. Classes run 9:30 a.m. to noon. Doors open at 9 a.m. Cost: \$75 per week. Register by calling Denise Hesler at 905-899-1215.

THE 3 ARRRS

Make a pirate costume out of recycled

materials at home and then join Niagara Region public works staff as they present an interactive pirate-themed show all about recycling, at Port Colborne Public Library. For children five to eight years old. Free, just pre-register at the library 905-834-6512.

**WEDNESDAY
JULY 17****THE 3 ARRRS**

Make a pirate costume out of recycled materials at home and then join Niagara Region public works staff as they present an interactive pirate-themed show all about recycling, at Pelham Public Library. The presentation will involve games and skill-building activities. Starts 1 p.m., cost \$2.

PC LIBRARY EXPLORER TOTS.

For ages 2-4 with parent/caregiver. Stories, crafts and games. July 17, 31 & Aug. 14 & 28, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Cost is \$1.00 per class. Pre-register.

**FRIDAY
JULY 19****GAME PALOOZA!**

at Wainfleet Township Public Library from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Children and teens are invited to drop-in to play Nintendo Wii and board games.

**SATURDAY
JULY 20****ROSEDALE'S ROOT'N TOOTH**

Round-up between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., 11 Rosedale Pl. (off Lincoln St.). Free garage sale, free hotdogs, free beans, free popcorn, free activities for the kids, free pony rides. God has blessed us for 75 years and we want to share the blessings with you.

**FRIDAY
JULY 26****QUIDDITCH MATCH**

at Wainfleet Township Public Library from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. To celebrate Harry Potter's birthday, we will be

having our 6th annual Quidditch match (weather permitting).

Slytherin vs. Gryffindor. For children aged six and up. Please pre-register by calling 905-899-1277 by July 24. Wear running shoes and sunscreen. Bring a broom, hat and water.

**THURSDAY
AUGUST 1****BABYSITTING COURSE**

offered by St. John Ambulance. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Port Colborne Library. Sign-up deadline is July 25. For ages 10 to 14. Cost is \$30. Proof of birth date required upon registration.

**MONDAY
AUGUST 5****NIAGARA BEEKEEPERS**

Association meets at the Niagara Regional Police Service community room, 5 Lincoln St., Welland, at 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 25****MS BIKE TOUR**

In this my ninth year to raise funds to help our son who has MS, I've registered for the MS Bike Tour to fulfil a personal challenge, and to help the MS Society fund research, advocate for change and help people with MS and their families. I, Larry Peyton, am part of the MS Bike Tour because I believe in a future without multiple sclerosis – and with your help we can get there. Please give generously. Visit msbiketours.com.

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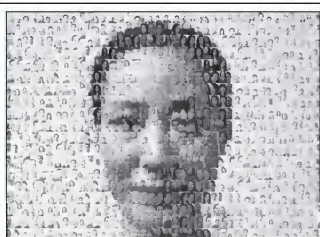
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■ COUNCIL FIGHTING

Absence won't compromise CAO interviews: Barrick

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

THOROLD — One of the regional councillors tasked with choosing Niagara Region's next top bureaucrat says missing a day of interviews won't hurt his ability to pick the best candidate.

Port Colborne Coun. David Barrick, who missed a meeting of the CAO recruitment committee July 7, says being away for his honeymoon that day won't compromise his performance on the interview panel.

But some regional councillors on Thursday — while not naming names — slammed the committee's move to allow absent members to stay in the fold, arguing councillors who can't be there for every meeting should be turfed from the group. That's despite a policy the committee passed June 28 ensuring absent councillors won't get the boot.

"If you miss it, I don't know how you can judge



JEFF BOLICHOWSKI/QMI Agency Niagara
Port Colborne Coun. David Barrick is pictured in this photo from April.

for yourself, not being there," said St. Catharines Coun. Tim Rigby at council Thursday. He was among a group of councillors who argued missing interviews could mean absent councillors miss the best candidate.

"How does that councillor weigh those interviews against the ones that you've still had?"

Missing a meeting should mean a councillor is out of the selection process, said Thorold Coun. Henry

"If you miss it, I don't know how you can judge for yourself, not being there. How does that councillor weigh those interviews against the ones that you've still had?"

St. Catharines Coun. Tim Rigby

D'Angela. "Now we have a flawed process."

Regional council on the whole disagreed, upholding the committee's move to keep absent councillors on the committee in a 12-7 vote, despite calls from

opposition councillors to reverse the policy.

On Friday, Barrick said the committee made clear that missing a meeting would not be a deal-breaker for members.

"In this case, interviews

are still ongoing," he said. He said the consultant aiding the Region's search for a new CAO suggested the absentee policy.

He said he could speak with colleagues to catch up on interviews he missed.

"The effort last night by certain councillors, I'm not sure what the benefit would have been of doing that," Barrick said.

"I wonder what the real intent of the motion was, if it was an attempt to get someone else on the committee."

see BARRICK page 10

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■ BARRICK

7 councillors on committee

FROM PAGE 9

The committee was struck earlier this year to choose a replacement for former CAO Mike Trojan.

Barrick was one of seven councillors chosen to join the committee alongside Regional Chair Gary Burroughs and Region staff. Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati and councillors Bart Maves and Barb Greenwood, Niagara-on-the-Lake Coun. Dave Lepp, Fort Erie Coun. John Teal and Lincoln Coun. Mark Bylsma also sit on the committee.

The absence of a councillor disturbed St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan.

"We were very clear we wanted every councillor to attend every meeting," he said during the council meeting. "To be fair, that's why some (candidates) dropped out."

Booting absent councillors was

HOW THEY VOTED

To ratify a CAO recruitment committee decision that absence from a meeting would not be grounds to dismiss someone from the committee:

YES: Couns. Selina Volpatti, Vance Badway, Bart Maves, Roma Katzman, Barry Sharpe, Dave Eke, Doug Joyner, Bruce Timms, Bob Bentley, Dave Lepp, Brian Heit and Brian Baty.

NO: Couns. Henry D'Angela, Barb Greenwood, Dave Augustyn, Brian McMullan, George Marshall, Tim Rigby and Ted Luciani.

not part of the committee's original framework, said Maves.

"Mr. Barrick was given permission to miss that meeting," he said. "If this retroactively removes him from the committee, that's the height of unfairness."



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Consultation on the Proposed Recovery Strategy for Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

On June 26, 2013, the proposed recovery strategy for the Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), an endangered species protected under the *Species at Risk Act*, was posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry for comment. This may be of concern to owners of property in the area of Wainfleet.

To find out how you may be affected and to comment on the proposed Massasauga Recovery Strategy, please visit www.sararegistry.gc.ca. Maps showing affected areas can be found on this website.

Your comments are important to the development of the final recovery strategy. Comments regarding the *Proposed Recovery Strategy for the Massasauga (Sistrurus catenatus)* in Canada must be submitted by August 26th, 2013.

If you would like to receive a paper copy of the proposed strategy, or if you would like further information, please contact Gary Allen, Species Conservation Specialist, Parks Canada Agency at 613-993-2125 ext 281 or email: massasauga@pc.gc.ca.



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■ COURTS

'Progress' in secret Provincial Offences Court talks

QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

THOROLD — Regional council has taken steps forward in consolidating its Provincial Offences Act courts, says St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan.

Councillors spent an hour and a half at last Thursday's meeting discussing the issue behind closed doors. They are seeking to reduce the number of court-houses from four to two.

No vote was taken in open session, but acting CAO Patrick Robson said "a couple" sites have been singled out for

more analysis.

McMullan said there was progress. "I think there was," he said. "Ongoing progress, but I think progress was made."

The message was echoed by Regional Chair Gary Burroughs, who said, "I'd like to say we're moving along."

Discussion on the POA courts has largely taken place in council's closed sessions as they try to decide where to put their two new courthouses. One will be in St. Catharines, the other in Welland.



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■ COUNCIL

Roselawn Centre rates need to be discussed: Bodner

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — When it comes to Roselawn Centre, Ron Bodner wants the city to look at the dollars and sense.

The Ward 4 councillor has been working alongside community group Friends of Roselawn to ensure the curtains do not close on the arts and culture facility, and he's



Bodner

city host a special meeting

calling on the city to take those efforts one step further.

During a recent council meeting, Bodner asked that the city host a special meeting

in the near future for user groups interested in renting Roselawn Centre for various events and activities.

It will allow staff to discuss rate structures directly with the groups, Bodner said, and determine what schools, private groups and not-for-profit agencies would be willing and able to pay to use the historic building.

"This has some time sen-

There's a perfect storm coming together in a good way."

Coun. Ron Bodner

sitivity. There's a perfect storm coming together in a good way," he said, with so many groups expressing interest. But those inquiries need to be addressed in a timely manner so those

opportunities aren't lost, he added.

"It'd sure be nice to fill that place up."

Port Colborne High School, for instance, has expressed an interest in

hosting its holiday concerts and a series of other events at the facility, but rates need to be worked out before any plans can be made.

"We need to say 'that's what it is' and possibly turn groups away, or we need to work with them and fill this place," Bodner said of the rates.

see **ROSELAWN** | page 13



SHIFT INTO SUMMER

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■ ROSELAWN

User groups to be included in rate talks

FROM PAGE 12

Harry Hakim, Port Colborne's manager of community services, said he is working on creating a rate structure for the facility and had planned to bring it forward to council's next meeting on July 22.

The user groups should be included in that discussion prior to their reaching



Hakim

the council table. Bodner said.

"If the groups are not happy with the rates, it's useless."

O n c e the discus-

sion is had and rates are set, they can always be reviewed down the road, Bodner added.

Mayor Vance Badawey said council needs to determine whether it has an appetite to subsidize rates for certain groups to use the facility, similar to the rate structure for the city's arenas.



Desmarais

"We should gather together the groups and hear their ideas," said Ward 2 Coun. Desmarais,

who has attended several Friends of Roselawn meetings and found herself impressed with the ideas that float around the table.

"That will allow us to be flexible enough to make the right decision."

Bodner and Desmarais agreed to organize a meeting with staff and user groups, though a date has

yet to be set.

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■ PILGRIMAGE: Local women walk the El Camino Santiago



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

Mary Eytte, left, and Eileen Martineau show the stamps they received that indicate where they stopped when they walked the ancient pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

A personal journey

SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — The El Camino Santiago is not for the faint of heart.

To travel the path, which is more than 1,200 years old and over 800 kilometres long, takes courage, self-

reliance and no fear.

These are qualifications Eileen Martineau and Mary Eytte said they needed when they each strapped on 18 pounds of gear on their backs.

see PILGRIMAGE | page A5

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The Way of St. James

see **PILGRIMAGE** | page 16

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Pilgrimage involved walking 6 to 12 hours per day

FROM PAGE 15

On their journey, Martineau and Ayotte would walk anywhere from six to 12 hours a day, stopping to eat and sleep in hostels, convents or wherever a bed

was available. At each place they stopped for the night, they would have a certificate stamped to show their progress.

They say their first day on the pilgrimage was the worst with cold weather and rain,

but they persisted.

"It's survival. You just keep moving one step in front of the other and the time passes," Martineau said.

Although the pilgrims both walked the path, they each traveled at their own pace, taking in the sights and sounds by themselves.

About 5,000 people came on the El Camino with us, but everyone walked at their

own pace and not together," Martineau said of the journey, which she described as personal for those who take it.

Martineau was known as "the road runner" and Ayotte was nicknamed "the turtle." The names were chosen because of the speed each person walked.

The women say there are many reasons for choosing to

take part in the pilgrimage.

Ayotte was inspired to take the pilgrimage after having watched the film, *The Way* starring Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez. The story is about a father who recovers the body of his estranged son who died while traveling the El Camino and decides to take the pilgrimage himself.

After learning more about

the pilgrimage, Ayotte said she had to do it.

For Martineau, she traveled the long path in honour of her husband, who died four years ago.

"I also did it for spiritual reasons. If you ask every pilgrim, they'll tell you something different."

Sarah Ferguson@sunmedia.ca

Twitter: s_ferguson25

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■ **ONE STEP CLOSER:** Group secures support of city council

Lighthouse tours coming?

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Council has put its support behind what it believes is a bright idea.

Erno Rossi made a pitch to councillors Monday night in hopes of gaining endorsement to host tours of the lake-side city's two lighthouses.

Rossi chairs Port Colborne's Save Our Lighthouses group, which has been working to have the local landmarks designated heritage sites.

If all goes as planned, the tours will be held during Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival, Aug. 2 to 5, to start with potential to expand to other dates if the interest is there.

Before the tours can move forward, however, the group must get approval from St. Lawrence Seaway Authority to access the breakaway where the lighthouses are located.

It's been indicated, Rossi said, that approval may come easier with the support of Port Colborne council behind the project, which has been a long time coming for the community group.

About 1,600 lighthouses across Canada, including the two in Port Colborne, were declared surplus over the past few years by the federal government.

Wanting to see the structures preserved, Save Our Lighthouses was formed by concerned community members who began following the process laid out by the government through the Lighthouse Heritage Protection Act to take control of the landmarks. The group has created a petition to have the lighthouses designated as heritage sites and a business plan to show how it will support the structures after they're taken over.

Keys to the lighthouses were recently handed over from Fisheries and Oceans

Canada.

"They were super in actually making the path easier in

acquiring these lighthouses," Rossi said of the ministry.

see **LIGHTHOUSE** | page 18

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■ LIGHTHOUSE

Structures sound

FROM PAGE 17

After the keys were delivered, the group and its involved engineers examined the structures.

"We found them to be strong, well constructed, with not much maintenance needed but a paint job and a vacuum cleaner. Then it will be ready to receive people interested in lighthouses."

Rossi believes "interest is strong" and once the tours are set up they will become a big draw for the city, especially

since the lighthouses have a unique feature — a tunnel that runs between them.

The group is currently working to raise enough funds to cover the liability insurance for the tours, which is expected to run about \$3,000. Members have raised \$1,400 so far.

"We plan to be self-sufficient financially in future years," Rossi said, expecting the tours to take off as word spreads.

The group is thinking about

charging \$15 per person and \$25 per couple or family for the tour, which includes a return ferry ride from Sugarloaf Harbour Marina to the structures. Several ferry trips will take place throughout the day, Rossi said, with visitors having the option of staying out at the site for some time.

Council unanimously agreed to sanction the Save Our Lighthouses group and its tours under the umbrella with other Canal Days event organizers.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

City council threw its support behind the Save Our Lighthouses groups on Monday night, bringing possible tours of the two on the breakwall one step closer.

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■ CONSERVATION

NPCA chair's 38% raise ripped

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency Niagara

THOROLD — The chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority board of directors says his 38% raise this year is justified.

But the nearly \$1,800 increase handed to chair Bruce Timms at the board's April meeting drew flak from some regional councillors at Thursday's meeting. The increase bumps up the honorarium Timms receives per year from \$4,682 to \$6,451.71.

The hike puts the conservation authority in line with the average chair payment for bodies of its size, said Timms, a veteran St. Catharines regional councillor. And he said the authority's role has expanded to tree protection enforcement, source water protection and regulating flood plain lines.

"I think Niagara has realized, if we're going to get performance and get results from government agencies and representatives and public represen-

tatives, we're going to have to recognize that it's not done for free and people's time is valuable," Timms said.

"You get what you pay for."

St. Catharines Coun. Brian Heit and Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn both ripped the raises as fiscally irresponsible Thursday. Board members also had their per diem pay increased by 3.1%, while the board's vice chair got a \$1,258.43 honorarium. All the changes are retroactive to Jan. 1.

The wage increases must still be approved by the Ontario Municipal Board.

On Saturday, Heit called the increases "outrageous." He said the only votes against the raises came from the non-politicians on the board.

"Come on, folks," he said. "We shouldn't be there for the money. We should be there because we care about conservation."

He slammed Timms for backing wage freezes for Region staff and councillors while supporting the



Bob Tymczyszyn Standard Staff
Bruce Timms, the chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority board of directors, says his 38% raise this year is justified.

increases at the conservation authority.

"He was one at the Region that was adamant about the (Niagara Regional) Police staying in line about a 2% guideline" for budget hikes, Heit said. "And then you go and do

this?"

The increases passed in a 7-4 vote in which all Niagara councillors voting — Timms, Welland Mayor Barry Sharpe, Niagara Falls Coun. Bart Maves, West Lincoln Mayor Doug Joyner and Port Colborne Coun.

David Barrick — voted yes.

Vice-chair April Jeffs, also the Mayor of Wainfleet, declared a conflict of interest, and Pelham Coun. Brian Baty and Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Dave Eke were absent.

Timms said the conservation authority board and staff previously took a two-year wage freeze.

"It wasn't about the increase, like an annual increase," he said.

"This was more about re-defining the role, like a job description change."

Augustyn dismissed Timms' reasoning Saturday.

"They haven't increased their watershed. They haven't increased their land mass. They haven't increased their responsibilities at all."

He said the elected members at the meeting that day all voted for the change. "This is more about politicians giving themselves increases than anything to do with the community."

The Region pays the

HOW THEY VOTED

On increasing the NPCA chair's honorarium to \$6,451.71, granting the vice chair a \$1,258.43 honorarium and increasing per diem pay to \$71.24 per meeting, all retroactive to Jan. 1, the agency's board voted as follows:

YEA: David Barrick, Carmen D'Angelo, Doug Joyner, Bart Maves, Barry Sharpe, Bob Steckley and Bruce Timms.

NAY: Stewart Beattie, Dominic Di Fruscia, Trevor Eashon and Doug Ramsom.

ABSENT: Brian Baty, Dave Eke, Tony Dallmonte.

April Jeffs declared a conflict of interest.

lion's share of the conservation authority's budget, and Niagara members hold 12 seats on the 15-member board. The board also includes members from Hamilton and Haldimand.

But Timms said regional council has no say in the board's decisions.

"It is not in any way regional council's jurisdiction," Timms said.

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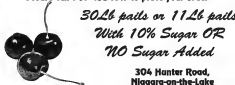
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